

REMARKS

The Examiner stated: "Applicant has not complied with one or more conditions for receiving the benefit of an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) as follows:

An application in which the benefits of an earlier application are desired must contain a specific reference to the prior application(s) in the first sentence of the specification or in an application data sheet (37 CFR 1.78(a)(2) and (a)(5)). The specific reference to any prior nonprovisional application must include the relationship (i.e., continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part) between the applications except when the reference is to a prior application of a CPA assigned the same application number." In the specification, the "Cross Reference to Related Applications" paragraph is added to the beginning.

No prior art search was conducted in preparation of the instant application. The applicant has disclosed its knowledge of the prior art in the "Description of the Prior Art" section of the specification. Accordingly, no information disclosure statement was submitted.

The Examiner stated: "Regarding claim 1, the phrase 'of the type' renders the claim(s) indefinite because the claim(s) include(s) elements not actually disclosed (those encompassed by 'of the type'), thereby rendering the scope of the claim(s) unascertainable." The applicant believes that stating that a system or device is "of the type having" certain components or elements merely establishes the underlying features or characteristics and is the first statement identifying these features or characteristics forming the antecedent basis in a preamble for those additional features, characteristics, or improvements that are subsequently added to the system or device. However, applicant also believes that the claim can stand without the phrase "of the type". That phrase has been deleted in amended claim 1. It is believed that this removal of the phrase leaves claim 1 without any indefiniteness and places claim 1, as amended, in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 "under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by US patent 6318763, Huang.

In regards to claim 1, Huang discloses an improved hydraulic fitting having a stem (10) including a hose insert portion, and a collar support portion, having a mating connection portion, and a collar having, a torque communication portion, a female support portion, and an inner periphery extending through the ferrule support portion and the torque communication portion, the improvement comprising:

the collar support portion including knurling (100) and an axial stop ring ...,
the torque communication portion being staked such that the inner periphery
extending through the torque communication portion communicates with the knurling in a
relatively non-rotational manner, and
the ferrule support portion being staked such that the inner periphery extending through
the ferrule support portion communicates with the axial stop ring in an axial movement
limiting manner." (emphasis added)

US patent 6318763, Huang simply does not disclose or otherwise suggest the torque
communication portion D being staked to affix collar 16 to stem 12 in a relatively non-
rotational manner. Staking is not the only, or even obvious, method that can be employed to
affix collar 16 to stem 12. US patent 6318763 does not discuss staking nor depict any example
of staking. Accordingly, the applicant believes that US patent 6318763 does not reveal every
element of the claim, as is required for the reference to anticipating, and thus does not
anticipate claim 1, placing claim 1 in condition for allowance.

The Examiner states: "In regards to claim 2, Huang discloses a hydraulic fitting
comprising:

a stem having a hose insert portion, and a collar support portion,
a mating connection portion, the collar support portion including knurling and an axial
stop ring,
a collar having, a torque communication portion, a ferrule support portion, and an inner
periphery extending through the ferrule support portion and the torque communication portion,
the torque communication portion being staked such that the inner periphery
extending through the torque communication portion communicates with the knurling in a
relatively non-rotational manner, and
the ferrule support portion being staked such that the inner periphery extending through
the ferrule support portion communicates with the axial stop ring in an axial movement
limiting manner." (emphasis added)

The argument applied regarding claim 1 applies equally to claim 2. Accordingly,
applicant believes claim 2 to be in condition for allowance. Claim 3 depends from claim 2 and
is thus believed to be in condition for allowance.

The examiner states: "In regards to claim 4, Huang discloses a hydraulic coupling and hose (20) comprising:

a hose end fitting including a stem having a hose insert portion, and a collar support portion,

the collar support portion including knurling and an axial stop ring,

a collar having, a torque communication portion, a female support portion, and an inner periphery extending through the ferrule support portion and the torque communication portion,

the torque communication portion being staked such that the inner periphery extending through the torque communication portion communicates with the knurling in a relatively non-rotational manner, the ferrule support portion being staked such that the inner periphery extending through the ferrule support portion communicates with the axial stop ring in an axial movement limiting manner, a mating connection portion, the hose fitted upon the hose end fitting,

an apparatus fitting (15), and

the apparatus fitting sealingly mated to the mating connection portion of the hose end fitting." (emphasis added) The argument applied regarding claims 1 and 2 applies equally to claim 4. Accordingly, applicant believes claim 4 to be in condition for allowance. Claim 5 depends from claim 4 and is thus believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Examiner stated: "In regards to claim 6, Huang discloses a method for producing a hydraulic fitting comprising the steps of:

providing a stem having a hose insert portion, and a collar support portion,

knurling a portion of the collar support portion, and

forming an annular depression proximate the common boundaries of the collar portion and the hose insert portion."

Claim 6 is amended to include the limitations "providing a collar with a torque communication portion, placing said collar about said collar support portion, and staking said collar at said torque communication portion to affix said collar upon said stem in a relatively non-rotational manner." The argument applied to claims 1, 2 and 4 applies equally to claim 6, as amended. Accordingly, the applicant believes claim 6, as amended, to be in condition for allowance.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, allowance of all claims is respectfully solicited. If issues remain and the Examiner feels that it would expedite prosecution, the examiner is urged to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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